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YO, DAISUKE. I HEARD YOU STOOD UP AKARI-SENPAI AGAIN?
MMMNN~ I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT OUR DATE WHILE WATCHING MOVIES
JEEZ! FREAKING SELF-CENTERED GUY! IT'S BECAUSE OF THINGS LIKE THIS THAT YOUR GIRLFRIENDS ALWAYS DUMP YOU YOU KNOW?
I'm looking forward to running benchmark tests on the NEB Pentium...
AT THIS RATE YOU'RE GOING TO BE TREATED LIKE A BUG AND CAST ASIDE BY HER TOO
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! AKARI AND I ARE DOING FINE!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW MANY OF THOSE ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE? WHAT'S THE POINT IN HAVING MORE THAN ONE CALCULATOR?

THIS THING HERE IS MORE THAN JUST A CALCU-LATOR!
COMPUTERS ARE THE PRODUCT OF DREAMS CREATED THROUGH THE AMALGAMATION OF NEW TECH-NOLOGY!
{CODE 5:THE BUCKET LIST} #2

JEEZ, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU BEFORE YOU UNDERSTAND...
Winter 1994

"THIS IS AN ICE AGE!" STUDENT PROCLAIMS
SEND ME AN ORDER, EVEN UNOFFICIALLY
FOR AN ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURER TO SEND AN UNOFFICIAL REQUEST DURING AN ICE AGE LIKE THIS I'M THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW! I WANNA START BUILDING ALREADY
HMPH FOOL FEEL FREE TO STAY STUCK IN THE PAST AS THE WORLD MOVES FORWARD
RIGHT, RIGHT, THE WHOLE "THE COMPUTER WILL CHANGE THE WORLD!!", THING RIGHT?

HAHA, SEEMS LIKE I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, LANDING A JOB AT HANAGATA ADVERTISING.

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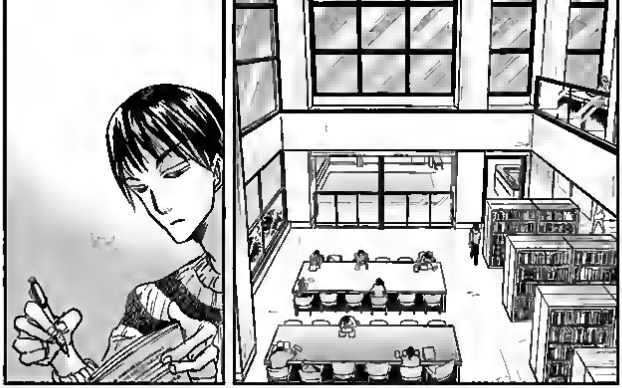
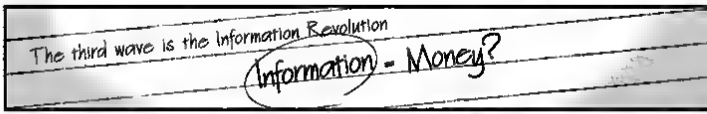


The first wave is the Agricultural Revolution
The second wave is the Industrial Revolution

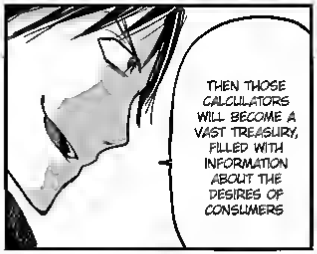

The third wave is the Information Revolution
Information = Money?

CLICK

Udon
Section

SWISH
KITAGAWA! COMPUTERS ARE THE ANSWER!
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND? THAT'S RIGHT, TECHNOLOGY IS...
NO! THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

GRIN
THOSE THINGS ARE A LITERAL MASS OF HUMAN DESIRE.


THEN THOSE CALCULATORS WILL BECOME A VAST TREASURY, FILLED WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE DESIRES OF CONSUMERS

NO, IF EACH PERSON WERE TO OWN A DEVICE...
WITH TIME IF EACH FAMILY WERE TO OWN A DEVICE...

TWITCH

YOU'RE PRETTY DUMB AREN'T YOU. THE AGE OF COMPUTERS IS COMING YOU KNOW?
Under-stand?
WELL... THERE ARE THOSE WITH THAT VIEW POINT AS WELL...

March 1995
Graduation Ceremony
WHAT?!!
NO, I WAS!
BECAUSE I AM THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA!!
WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU ACTING LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA?!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GO WORK FOR THAT WEIRD COMPANY THAT MAKES NO SENSE? THAT "TELECOMMUNICATIONS" OR WHATEVER THING? ARE THEY EVEN GOING TO PAY YOU?
BECAUSE I WANTED TO AVOID THIS CONVERSATION
WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO ME ABOUT IT FIRST?!
YEAH.
YOU TURNED DOWN THE ADVERTISEMENT AGENCY?!

JEEZ, YOU'RE SO ANNOYING. WHY DOES IT MATTER?
WHA—
AS LONG AS THEY TEACH ME THINGS IN RELATION TO THE INTERNET, I'LL BE SATISFIED!
AND WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE?
SEARCH FOR WHAT I SHOULD BE HUNTING FOR.

Konica
FUJITSU
January 1998

KITAGAWA, JOIN THE VOLUNTEER GROUP I'VE CREATED.
CHEERS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SO TELL ME, WHAT ASPIRATIONS DO YOU STILL HOLD AFTER WORKING FOUR YEARS AS A SALARIED EMPLOYEE?!

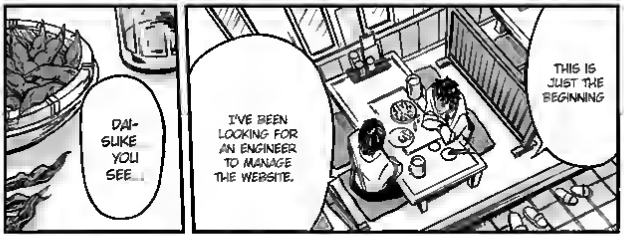
I REFUSE. I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU'RE ORDERING ME.
WHAT'S GOING ON? GETTING MARRIED? MOVING?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT POS ARE MASSES OF HUMAN DESIRE BACK DURING OUR COLLEGE DAYS?
YOU SEE, I'VE CREATED A WEBSITE FOR SELLING RARE MOVIE-RELATED MERCHANDISE

MY SITE HANDLES ABOUT 50 TRANSACTIONS A DAY...
LET'S SAY THAT THAT THERE'S A BUYER LOOKING FOR A POSTER FROM A CLASSIC HORROR MOVIE. MY SITE WOULD INTRODUCE THAT BUYER TO A CONNOISSEUR THAT OWNS SAID POSTER.
BORING...
COME ON, JUST LISTEN.

HOWEVER, THE TRULY INTERESTING POINT IS IN THE METHOD USED TO DO SO.
I'M NOTHING MORE THAN AN INTERMEDIARY.

A WORLD WHERE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT TRANSACTIONS WITH EACH OTHER WITHOUT AN INTERMEDIARY COMPANY WILL BE BORN.
THANKS TO THE INTERNET, THE METHODS OF COMMUNICATIONS ARE GOING TO CHANGE.

I'M GOING TO CHANGE THE DAILY LIVES OF PEOPLE THROUGH THE USE OF THE NET.
IN THIS NEW AGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A FEW INDIVIDUALS TO TOPPLE OVER THE ENTRENCHED AND ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES OF THE WORLD.
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.


DAI-SUKE YOU SEE...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR AN ENGINEER TO MANAGE THE WEBSITE.
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING

ALTHOUGH I SAID THAT I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED AT WORKING AT THIS ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURER... ALL I REALLY DO IS LOOK AT BLUEPRINTS, AND SINCE IT'S A HUGE COMPANY... I'VE BEEN KINDA FEELING LIKE IT JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

I'M IN, CAPTAIN!
THIS IS LOOKING TO BE A GOOD YEAR!!

12

THIS
CAN'T REALLY BE CALLED AN OFFICE.
HEY DAISUKE, WAKE UP! I'VE BROUGHT MORE SOLDIERS.

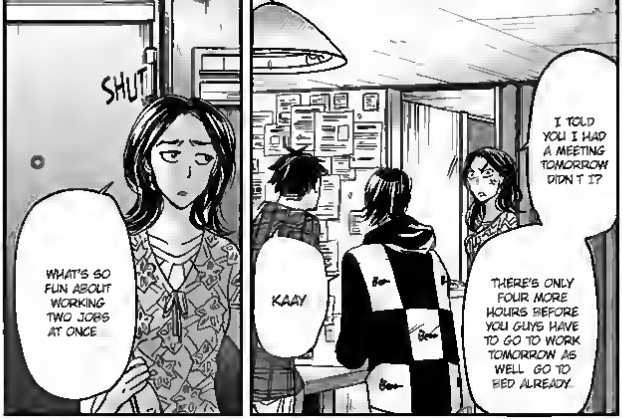
Sakai Daisu

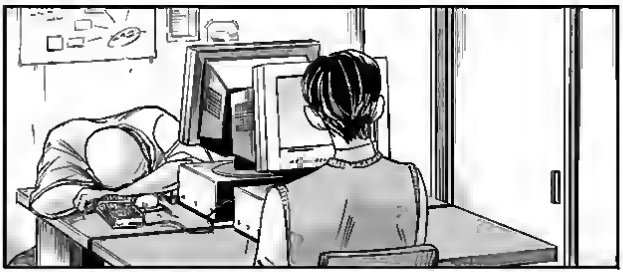
SMACK
H-HEY...
YO, THANKS FOR JOINING.
I'VE INTRODUCED YOU TO HIM BEFORE, BUT HE WAS ONE OF OUR JUNIORS IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
THIS BALDY IS THE CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED TEZUKA KEIGO
ALSO... I'VE GOT ONE MORE... THIS GUY IS A BIT ON THE WEIRD SIDE...
SPIN

HELLO
HELLO. I AM MITARAI
MITARAI SUBARU, HE USED TO WORK AT THE SAME COMPANY AS ME.
WHY DID YOU QUIT YOUR JOB AT THE COMPANY?

THE COMPANY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE WAY I DO THINGS.
THEY UNDERSTAND NOTHING ABOUT HOW PROGRAMS WORK
HE'S A BIT HARD TO DEAL WITH...
STIN STIN
GO AHEAD
DO YOU MIND IF I USE THAT PC OVER THERE?
I LIKE HIM... HE'S IN.

HE WILL HAVE TO USE A PC FOR COUNTLESS HOURS ON END...
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T ABSOLUTELY LOVE WORKING WITH PCS WON'T LAST VERY LONG.
...WHA-?!
SOMEONE LIKE HIM IS GOING TO BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.
15
STUBBORN PEOPLE ARE INFALLIBLE IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS.
OH, AKARI. YOU HEADING HOME?
ALRIGHT!! WE'VE FINALLY BROKEN 10,000 USERS!
THIS IS NUTS FOR A SITE ONLY TWO MONTHS OLD!


SHUT
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT WORKING TWO JOBS AT ONCE
KAAY
I TOLD YOU I HAD A MEETING TOMORROW DIDN'T I?
THERE'S ONLY FOUR MORE HOURS BEFORE YOU GUYS HAVE TO GO TO WORK TOMORROW AS WELL GO TO BED ALREADY.



IT'S NOT ABOUT MONEY...
I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T PAY YOU MUCH
HEY SUBARU? DON'T BROOD TOO MUCH.

I... RECEIVED AN EMAIL TODAY.
IT WAS A THANK YOU MESSAGE. SOMEONE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC MOVIE FOR 10 YEARS, AND THEY WERE FINALLY ABLE TO OBTAIN THE VHS
THIS SYSTEM IS AN EXTENSION OF MYSELF.
SAKAI-SAN! COME OUT HERE!!

2 years later
April 2000
HEY!! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY!!!
KNOCK
PAYING BACK YOUR DEBTS IS HOW THE WORLD WORKS, SAKAI DAISUKE!!
KNOCK